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Message Text

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ACTION OPIC-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 OPR-02 /027 W
----------053387 011824Z /42
P 011731Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7733

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 BAMAKO 4434

FOR AF/W AND OPIC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EINV, ML, OVIP, OEXC
SUBJ: PROPOSED VISIT OF MALIAN MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

REF: STATE 256657

1. AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED CONTENTS REFTEL WITH LAMINE KEITA, MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM, ON OCTOBER 27. IN THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION THE MINISTER CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT TO UNDERTAKE THE VISIT ON NOVEMBER 14 WOULD NOT ALLOW ENOUGH TIME FOR PROPER PREPARATION. HE HAD PICKED NOVEMBER DATES BE-CAUSE OF THE MIAMI TRAVEL AGINTS' CONFERENCE BUT CON-SIDERED THAT THE COULD STILL MEET KEY PEOPLE IN TOURISM AT A LATER TIME. HE IS CONCERNED TO HAVE FROM WASHINGTON A FAIRLY GOOD IDEA OF HIS ACTUAL PROGRAM BEFORE HIS DE-PARTURE FROM MALI, AND HE ALSO NEEDS TIME TO TRANSLATE MALI'S INVESTMENT CODE AND MINING CODE INTO ENGLISH SO THAT HE CAN HAND THEM OUT AS APPROPRIATE DURING HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. THE MINISTER IS NOW THINKING IN TERMS OF A TRIP BEGINNING MID-JANUARY, ALTHOUGH HE WOULD HOPE TO AVOID VERY COLD WEATHER, BUT THE VISIT COULD TAKE PLACE LATER DEPENDING ON WHAT MIGHT BE GOING ON OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THE UNITED STATES.
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2. KEITA REGARDS HIS TRIP AS A WORKING VISIT DESIGNED TO PROMOTE INDUSTRY, MINING, AND TOURISM IN MALI, TO MAKE MALI KNOWN TO GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES AND AMERICAN PRIVATE FIRMS INTERESTED IN THESE SECTORS.

3. THE MINISTER ENUMERATED A VAST ARRAY OF THINGS HE

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WOULD LIKE TO DO AND SEE, WHICH THE AMBASSADOR POINTED
OUT WOULD BE FAR TOO MUCH FOR A SHORTVISIT. WHEN KEITA
INSISTED HE WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BE AWAY FOR MORE
THAN TEN DAYS, THE AMBASSADOR ASKED HIM TO LIST HIS DESIRES
IN RPIORITY ORDER, AND THE FOLLOWING IS HOW IT EVENTUALLY
CAME OUT:

A. THE MINING SECTOR. HE WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO COMPANIES
INTERESTED IN MINING RESEARCH AND IN PROSPECTING FOR
URANIUM, OIL, BAUXITE, MANGANESE, IRON, PHOSPHATES. HE
MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY TEXACO, WHICH HAS DEPARTED MALI,
MURPHY, WHICH HAS AN UNTAPPED OIL EXPLORATION CONCESSION,
AND WYOMING MINERAL CORPORATION (SUBSIDIARY OF WESTINGHOUSE).

B. THE USES OF SOLAR ENERGY.

C. THE USES OF SATELLITES IN THE LOCATION OF
MINERALS AND WATER.

D. TOURISM. HE WISHES TO SEE AGENCIES THAT SEND
TOURISTS TO WEST AFRICA, AND SPECIFICALLY TO MALI. HE
WANTS TO TALK TO FIRMS THAT MIGHT HELP FINANCE THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOURIST INDUSTRY. HE REFERRED TO
INTERCONTINENTAL, ESPECIALLY. WHILE THE FRENCH COMPANY
UTH HAS TAKEN OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE NEW HOTEL DE
L'AMITIE IN BAMAKO AND WILL PROBABLY RUN THREE PRO-
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SPECTIVE HOTELS IN MOPTI, SANGHA, AND TOMBOUCTOU
(TIMBUKTU), THE MINISTER IS EAGER TO DIVERSIFY MALI'S
EXTERNAL SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE TO THE TOURISM SECTOR.
HE HAD ALSO HEARD OF A "CLUB OF FRIENDS OF TIMBUKTU"
WITH WHICH HE MIGHT DO WELL TO GET IN TOUCH. THE MINISTER
ALSO MENTIONED TALKING TO SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL
ABOUT A TWIN FOR TIMBUKTU, BUT THE AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED
THAT WAS ONE ITEM THAT THE MIGHT DROP FROM HIS SCHEDULE
BECAUSE THE SEARCH WAS ALREADY WELL IN TRAIN.

E. INDUSTRY. KEITA IS BASICALLY INTERESTED IN
THE TECHNOLOGY OF PROCESSING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS INTO
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS, FOR EXAMPLE TEXTILES AND SUGARS.
HE REFERRED TO HIS DISCUSSION WITH BARNEY DABELL CON-
CERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF CONVERTING MILLET INTO SUGAR
(ROME 17554). THE MINISTER WOULD ALSO LIKE AMERICAN
INVESTMENT IN A CEMENT FACTORY.

4. AS FOR HIS ITINERARY, MINISTER KEITA WANTS TO VISIT
WASHINGTON AS SCHEDULED AND NEW YORK TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE
SOURCES OF FINANCING. APART FROM THAT, HE IS NOT
KEEN ON BIG CITIES AND WOULD LIKE TO GO ONLY TO REALLY

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USEFUL PLACES, TO AREAS WITH PROBLEMS SIMILAR TO MALI'S (THE SOUTHWEST IS A POSSIBILITY), AND HE WOULD PREFER TO CONCENTRATE ON FEWER PLACES RATHER THAN TO MOVE ABOUT EXCESSIVELY. HE HAS BEEN ONLY TO NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON BEFORE.

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5. THE GOVERNMENT OF MALI WILL COVER ALL COSTS OF THE MINISTER'S TRIP EXCEPT FOR AN INTERPRETER.

6. LAMINE KEITA WILL NOT HAVE AN INTERPRETER WITH HIM AND WOULD DEFINITELY LIKE TO HAVE ONE. AMBASSADOR REQUESTS THAT LANGUAGE SERVICES PROVIDE AN EXPERIENCED INTERPRETER-ESCORT, PREFERABLY ONE WHO HANDLED RECENT IVP GRANTEES MUSTAPHASDEME, HALIDOU TOURE, KOKE DEMBELE, OR THIERNO DIARRA.

7. WE WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS FOR A PROFITABLE 10-DAY VISIT BASED ON WHAT IS FEASIBLE FROM THE FOREGOING, WHICH WE THINK IS AS SPECIFIC AS WE WILL GET FROM THE MINISTER. IS THERE A SPECIAL EVENT OR CONVOCATION FALLING WITHIN LAMINE KEITA'S AREAS OF INTEREST IN THE FIRST FEW MONTHS OF 1978 THAT COULD DETERMINE THE TIMING OF HIS VISIT?

8. ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL INVESTMENT CLIMATE WILL BE TRANSMITTED SHORTLY.
BYRNE

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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From: BAMAKO
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